

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL
AUDIT, TO INCLUDE OPERATIONS AND PROCUREMENT, OF THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT WITH THE
HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Humane Society has received
2 complaints by many in the animal welfare community, particularly
3 regarding the high rate of euthanasia of healthy adoptable
4 animals by the organization; and

5
6 WHEREAS, using euthanasia to manage dog and cat
7 overpopulation causes health issues and emotional stress in
8 employees involved, increases staff turnover, and has financial,
9 moral, and ethical ramifications for communities; and

10
11 WHEREAS, employees and former employees recently organized
12 a group called "People for Animals First" to bring forward
13 concerns about the practices and management of the Hawaiian
14 Humane Society and spark the change necessary to save the
15 organization from further deterioration; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the group has provided state lawmakers with
18 testimonies and evidence that under the current leadership, and
19 with the oversight of the Hawaiian Humane Society Board of
20 Directors, the Hawaiian Humane Society routinely encourages
21 euthanasia of healthy or treatable animals, violates standard
22 safety procedures and labor practices, and supports a hostile
23 work environment; and

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25 WHEREAS, under the current leadership, sixty-two workers
26 have been fired or have resigned in the period of roughly one
27 year, a pattern repeated from when the current leadership was at
28 the Hawaii Island Humane Society; and

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30 WHEREAS, animals that had treatable conditions or were
31 underweight were routinely euthanized instead of being placed



1 into foster care with volunteers and rescue groups - a best
2 practice embraced by shelters across the United States to save
3 lives; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Humane Society animal control
6 contract with the City and County of Honolulu rewards the
7 Hawaiian Humane Society for euthanizing dogs, cats, and other
8 animals; and
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10 WHEREAS, a review of the animal control contract annual
11 reports from 2012 to 2016 indicates that there was an increase
12 of roughly twenty-two percent of the funds provided to the
13 Hawaiian Humane Society; and
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15 WHEREAS, while the counties of Kauai and Hawaii have moved
16 forward with audits of the animal control contactors and Maui
17 Humane Society has successfully made changes to reduce its
18 euthanasia rate, the Hawaiian Humane Society has not been
19 audited by the State since 1995 or by the City and County of
20 Honolulu since 1997; and
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22 WHEREAS, although California shelters take in over four
23 hundred thousand cats and dogs per year, their forty percent
24 euthanasia rate is a result of their commitment to following
25 national best practices, which do not appear to be embraced by
26 the Hawaiian Humane Society on Oahu; and
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28 WHEREAS, the proliferation of affordable spay and neuter
29 options for the public in the past ten years, including The Big
30 Fix clinics and Animal Balance clinics, have greatly reduced pet
31 overpopulation challenges and euthanasia; and
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33 WHEREAS, social media has mobilized the community to aid in
34 returning lost and found pets to their owners, rescuing stray
35 animals, and avoiding surrender to the Hawaiian Humane Society,
36 which has contributed to the reduction in the intake and
37 euthanasia of animals; and
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39 WHEREAS, recent scrutiny involving alleged criminal
40 wrongdoing by various, high-level City and County of Honolulu
41 officials requires the State to take a leadership role in



1 protecting Oahu taxpayers, animals, and the people that care for
2 them; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State move forward with
5 an audit prior to releasing any state grant in aid funds to
6 support construction of the Hawaiian Humane Society's new West
7 Oahu shelter; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
10 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
11 Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
12 conduct a management and financial audit, to include operations
13 and procurement, of the City and County of Honolulu's animal
14 control contract with the Hawaiian Humane Society; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is also requested
17 to contract support from an entity with sufficient expertise and
18 knowledge to audit the animal welfare policies and programs of
19 the Hawaiian Humane Society and provide recommendations for
20 reducing euthanasia; and

21
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
23 suspend release of any state grant funds awarded to the Hawaiian
24 Humane Society until an audit clears the organization of any
25 wrongdoing; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, State
29 Auditor, and President and Chief Executive Officer of the
30 Hawaiian Humane Society.

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33 OFFERED BY: Clarence K. Nishihara

~~SCR 2019-2195~~
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